

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 6250

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS DEFENSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MPOL YO VIP (ELLSWORTH, ROBERT A.)

SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY ELLSWORTH'S TALKS WITH YUGOSLAV
DEFENSE SECRETARIAT

1. TWO DAYS OF TALKS LED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (ISA)
ROBERT ELLSWORTH AND AMBASSADOR ON US SIDE AND DEPUTY SECRETARY
OF DEFENSE GENERAL MILOS SUMONJA ON YUGOSLAV SIDE WERE CONCLUDED
IN BELGRADE DECEMBER 13. THE TALKS WERE FRANK AND WIDE-RANGING,
AND BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THEIR OUTCOME. THE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND PARTY LEAVE BY TRAIN EVENING OF 13TH FOR
TOUR OF SLOVENIAN AREA ARRANGED BY JNA AND PLAN TO DEPART YUGO-
SLAVIA DECEMBER 15.

2. IN SUMMING UP DISCUSSIONS AT CONCLUDING SESSION, GEN. SUMONJA
STATED THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS
SHOULD GO FORWARD, PREFERABLY STEP BY STEP. PACE OF DEVELOPMENT
OF SUCH RELATIONS WILL DEPEND ON ATTITUDES, EFFORTS, AND ACTIONS
OF BOTH SIDES. IN THAT FRAMEWORK, SUMONJA CONTINUED, SMALL
PROBLEMS WHICH BURDEN OUR RELATIONS SHOULD BE RESOLVED, SUCH AS
MILITARY EXERCISE IN THE ADRIATIC. HE NOTED IN INFORMAL
DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR THAT MILITARY HAD BEEN INFORMED OF
AGREEMENT REACHED DURING KISSINGER VISIT THAT EACH SIDE MUST TAKE
SENSITIVITIES OF OTHER INTO CONSIDERATION.

3. ASSISTANT SECRETARY ELLSWORTH RESPONDED THAT DISCUSSIONS HAD
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CONTRIBUTED TO LAYING OF FOUNDATIONS FOR BUILDING STEADY, LON-

TERM RELATIONS IN DEFENSE-RELATED AREAS. BOTH SIDES MUST FOLLOW UP DISCUSSION WITH REAL EFFORTS TO OVERCOME THE SMALL PROBLEMS THAT WILL ALWAYS PLAGUE OUR RELATIONS AND, AT VERY LEAST, MITIGATE THEIR IMPACT ON OUR OVERALL RELATIONSHIP.

4. GEN SUMONJA AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY ELLSWORTH AGREED ON FOLLOWING POINTS AS FORMING BASIS FOR MUTUAL EFFORTS IN DEVELOPING RELATIONS IN DEFENSE AREA:

A. THE YUGOSLAV MILITARY ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON WILL MAKE EARLY CONTACT WITH ISA ON SPECIFIC YUGOSLAV MILITARY MATERIAL AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS AND THE USG RESPONSE TO THESE REQUEST.

B. IF NECESSARY, GOY WILL SEND SOMEONE TO WASHINGTON TO MEET WITH DOD AND THE DEPARTMENT, AS GEN. SUMONJA OFFERED.

C. THE GOY WILL SUBMIT TO THE USG ITS DESIRES REGARDING INFORMATION ON MODER MILITARY TECHNOLOGY. IF NEEDED AND DESIRABLE, THE GOY WILL SEND SOMEONE TO WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT FURTHER AFTER USG HAS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER YUGOSLAV WISHES AND OUR CAPABILITIES TO MEET THEM.

D. GOY WILL CONTINUE TO SEND OFFICERS TO FORT LEAVENWORTH COMMAND GENERAL COLLEGE AND AIR UNIVERSITY AT MAXWELL AFB.

E. DOD WILL CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF SENDING A TEAM TO BRIEF THE JNA ON MILITARY EXPERIENCE GAINED FROM THE OCTOBER WAR AND OTHER MILITARY ACTIONS SINCE SECOND WORLD WAR, WITH EMPHASIS ON MATERIEL CONSUMPTION AND EQUIPMENT DESTRUCTION FACTORS. AS A POSSIBLE FOLLOW-ON TO BRIEFING, JNA MAY PROVIDE US SOME INFORMATION ON ITS CONTINGENCY PLANNING IN ORDER TO ASSIST THE US IN CONSIDERING YUGOSLAV MILITARY EQUIPMENT NEEDS.

F. US WILL EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF COOPERATING WITH YUGOSLAVIA IN SUPPLYING MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO THIRD COUNTRIES.

G. US WILL CONSIDER YUGOSLAV OFFER OF YUGOSLAV SHIPYARDS FOR REPAIRING US NAVY AND MARITIME SHIPS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NEW YUGOSLAV LAW ON REPAIR OF FOREIGN SHIPS.

H. THE YUGOSLAVS INVITED A USAF DELEGATION TO VISIT YUGOSLAVIA IN 1975 IN RETURN FOR THE YAF VISIT TO THE US IN 1973, AS AN ADDITIONAL STEP IN ONGOING MILITARY CONTACTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

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4. CONCLUDING CONVERSATION WITH SECDEF, GEN. LJUBICIC, WILL BE REPORTED SEPTEL.
TOON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED DEFENCE

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